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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIJING 003861

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SUBJECT: JUNE 7 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: PRESIDENT BUSH-KADEER MEETING, COSTA RICA, DETAINED BISHOP, G-8, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, LEE TENG-HUI, VISITS

¶1. Key points at the June 7 MFA Press Conference were:

-- The MFA called President Bush's decision to meet with Rebiya Kadeer a "blatant interference in China's internal affairs."

-- China and Costa Rica have established diplomatic ties.

-- If the Korean nuclear issue is raised at G-8, the MFA hopes the discussion will play a positive role in "the resolution of relevant questions."

-- FM Romulo of the Philippines will pay an official visit June 17-19 at the invitation of FM Yang.

Firm Opposition to President Bush-Kadeer Meeting

¶2. At the June 7 regular MFA press briefing, spokesperson Jiang Yu responded to a question about President Bush's decision to meet with Uighur-activist Rebiya Kadeer by expressing China's "strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition" to what she called a "blatant interference in China's internal affairs." Jiang emphasized China's views that Kadeer is a "convicted criminal."

¶3. Asked for comment on President Bush's reported remarks that political reform in China was not keeping up with economic opening, the spokesperson stated that China has achieved economic development, social stability and development in the country's democracy and legal system in the nearly thirty years since opening and the Chinese people enjoy many rights and freedoms. She reasserted that the Chinese people and government will unwaveringly follow the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Formal Diplomatic Ties with Costa Rica

¶4. Responding to four questions regarding the June 7 announcement that the PRC has established diplomatic relations with Costa Rica, Jiang said that ties were based on respect and mutual benefit and represented a new period in bilateral relations. Although previously China did not have diplomatic relations with any Central American countries, it is ready to establish those ties. The resolution of the Taiwan question is the main obstacle, Jiang stated, and China hopes that those countries will make the right choice. China is preparing to establish an Embassy in Costa Rica and welcomes visits by the Costa Rican president and other high-level officials, Jiang said. Asked if China was planning any specific investments or economic assistance in Costa Rica, Jiang reiterated that ties were based on respect

and mutual benefit and that they would benefit both countries in political, cultural, economic as well as other fields. Se stressed that China's diplomatic relations wit 169 countries are not a matter of money bt of recognition of the one-China policy.

G-8 Discussion on DPRK, President Hu's G-8 Schedule

¶5. Asked if China would support a possible G-8 statement on the DPRK nuclear issue, Jiang said she had not heard that the matter would be discussed at the G-8 meeting. If the issue is raised, she expressed hope that discussion can play a positive role in "the resolution of relevant questions." Responding to a reporter's question, Jiang confirmed that President Hu would meet today with leaders from Nigeria, Senegal, Mexico and India before joining a collective meeting of developing nations this evening. She said Hu also plans to meet with leaders from Russia, the United States, France, Japan, Germany, Canada and Italy tomorrow.

Bishop from Hebei Detained

¶6. Asked to comment on a report made by the Cardinal Kung Foundation that Catholic bishop Jia Zhiguo has been detained in Hebei Province, Jiang stated that she was unaware of the case but that Chinese citizens enjoy religious freedom in accordance with the law and should not engage in illegal activities under the guise of religion.

Foreign Assistance

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¶7. Asked how much foreign aid China granted each year and for what purposes, the spokesperson replied that the matter was not under the MFA's realm of responsibility. Jiang stated that assistance to developing countries within the framework of north-south cooperation seeks to build infrastructure projects and improve people's welfare.

Still No Judgment on Lee's Visit to Yasukuni

¶8. Pushed again for comment on the recent visit of Lee Teng-hui to the Yasukuni Shrine, Jiang only expressed China's strong dissatisfaction with the Japanese for receiving Lee's visit to Japan.

Philippines FM Romulo to Visit

¶9. FM Romulo of the Philippines will pay an official visit June 17-19 at the invitation of FM Yang.
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